

New book chronicles town's people, history

Project was a labor of love for 3 editors

DUXBURY — Long after the 350th anniversary celebration has faded into history itself, residents will have a 228-page hardcover publication titled *"The Duxbury Book 1637-1987"* to leaf through to remind them of the rich heritage of their town.

The book, which was published this month to commemorate the town's 350th birthday, is the brainchild of its three editors: Robert D. Hale, Katherine H. Pillsbury and Jack Post, all members of the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society.

Each of them said they thought for years that a book should be written on Duxbury.

Former Town Historian Dorothy Wentworth left a list of topics she thought should be the focus of any writing about Duxbury when she retired and moved out of state.

"That was a nucleus of a book in itself," Post said.

Divided into four time sections — The Beginnings, The Builders, A Town for Summer, and Modern Duxbury — the book's more than 60 articles are written by local authors and historians.

Many of the illustrations and photographs are by local artists and

photographers.

"The people of Duxbury are the best part of the book," Post said. "We feel very proud that they first put their confidence in us and then that we were able to produce a book that is worthy of their confidence."

The Rural & Historical Society donated \$1,100 to launch the project.

"We knew we couldn't finance it out of the treasury of the historical society," Post said. "We have just enough to scrape by every year."

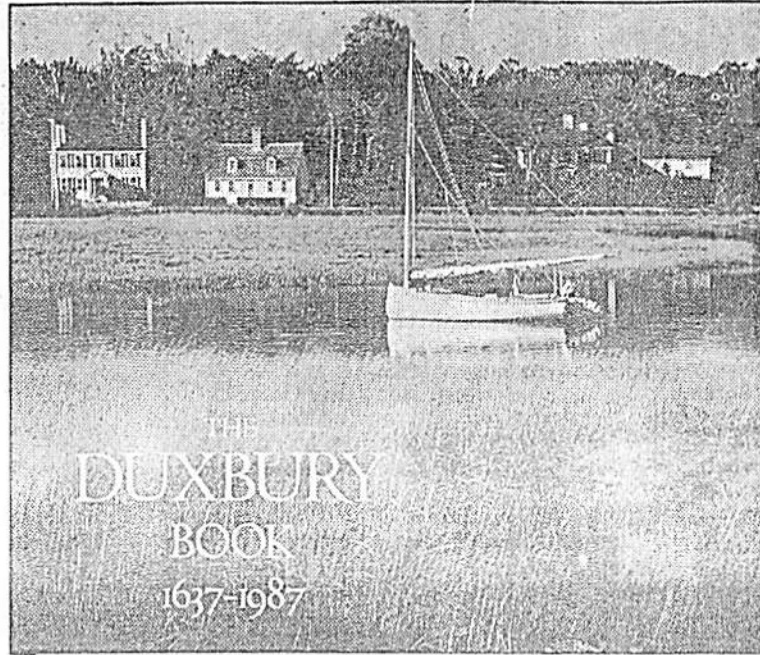
So the three editors made a list of people in town they thought might support the book and wrote letters to them. They were overwhelmed with responses.

"People came to us and said they had supported the Boston Symphony and Massachusetts General Hospital, but they said nobody had ever asked them to support something for Duxbury," said Post, who is past president of the society and in charge of its publications.

Pillsbury is town historian and head of the research committee for the society.

Hale owns the Westwind Bookshop.

"The three of us worked for 1½



Scene of the Blue Fish River on cover of local history published this year.

years and we never had a real disagreement," Post said. "It was all done by consensus. I have never worked on a project where there has been such cooperation."

The book is dedicated to Sabina Crosby, society secretary for 19 years.

She said the society has gained about 150 new members because of the book.

More than 1,000 people bought it

at a pre-publication price this spring, covering the book's financial obligations.

The retail price is \$30. The book is available at the Historical Society's Drew House, the Westwind Bookshop, Notes and Quotes in Kingston, and other area bookstores.

Cornelia Boynton of Maynard designed the book. The jacket photograph is by Jeffrey Dunn of Cambridge.

Patriot Ledger
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